

# Ashford Dunwoody Road Corridor Study

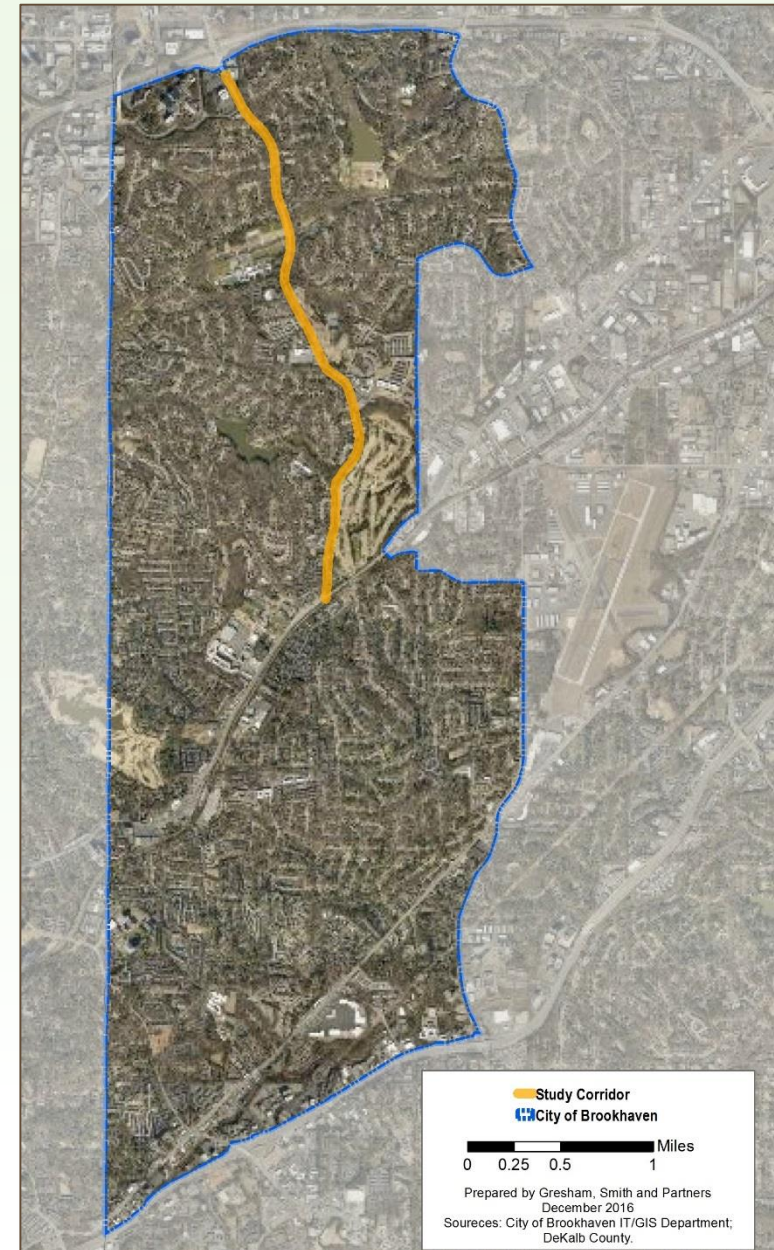
PRESENTATION TO CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 12, 2017



# Today's Presentation

- **History and Background**
- **Study Overview**
- **Community Engagement Process**
- **Draft Vision and Recommendations**
  - **Overall Vision and Strategies**
  - **Potential Projects: Short-, Mid-, and Long-term**
- **Wrapping Up and Next Steps**



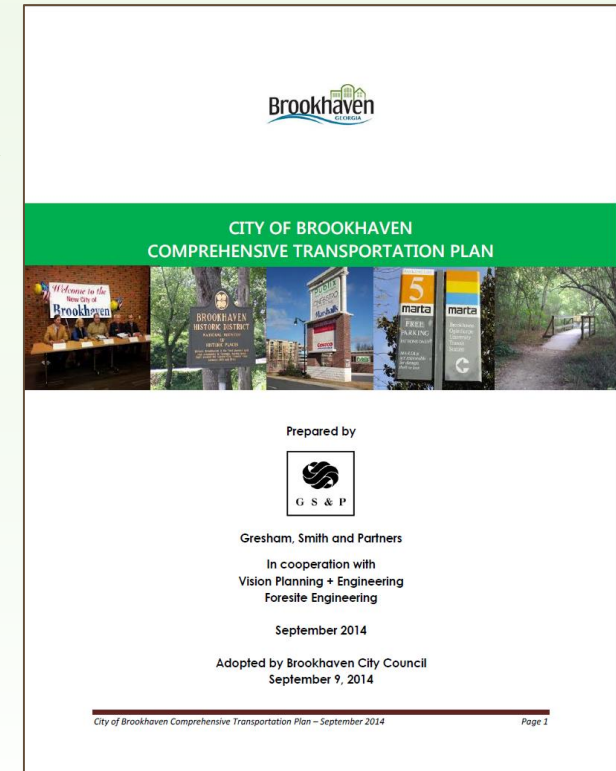
# History and Background

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## Visioning process recommended in 2014 Comprehensive Transportation Plan

- Employ a **two-phase process**

- **Phase I:** Develop a **vision** for the corridor based on **“Complete Streets”** and **context-sensitive approach** to serve traffic as well as provide multi-modal facilities
- **Phase II:** Analyses leading to **project concept report per GDOT**, including public outreach, roadway design and concepts



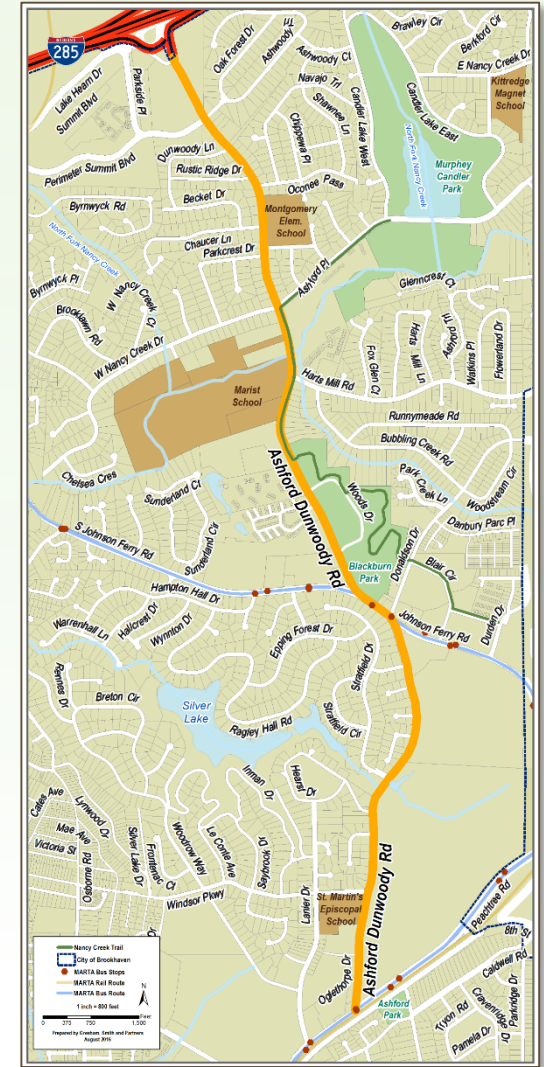
**Bicycle, Pedestrian and Trail Plan** completed in 2016 included recommendations for Ashford Dunwoody Rd

# Study Overview

# Study Overview

The purpose of this phase of the process was to develop a vision for a multimodal transportation corridor that...

- Serves the needs of **all users** of the corridor;
- Is **harmonious** with the surrounding area;
- **Minimizes negative impacts** to property owners and neighborhoods;
- Has **broad community support**; and
- Is **cost-effective and implementable**



# Study Overview (continued)

## The Study *IS*...

- An opportunity to figure out what people want
- A **VISION** plan
- **Conceptual**
- A **starting** point

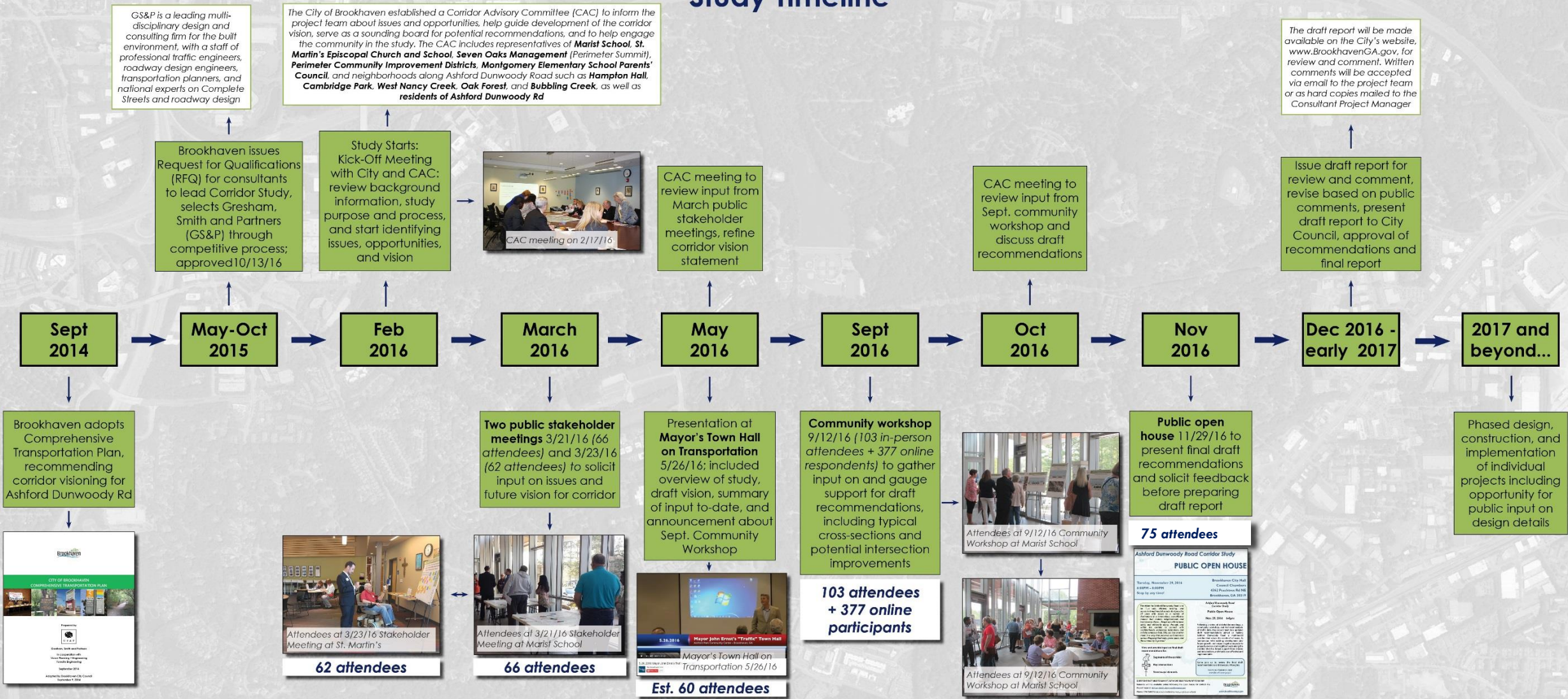


... It is *not*

- About specifics
- A **detailed design concept**
- A **final** plan



# Study Timeline



GS&P is a leading multi-disciplinary design and consulting firm for the built environment, with a staff of professional traffic engineers, roadway design engineers, transportation planners, and national experts on Complete Streets and roadway design

The City of Brookhaven established a Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) to inform the project team about issues and opportunities, help guide development of the corridor vision, serve as a sounding board for potential recommendations, and to help engage the community in the study. The CAC includes representatives of **Marist School, St. Martin's Episcopal Church and School, Seven Oaks Management (Perimeter Summit), Perimeter Community Improvement Districts, Montgomery Elementary School Parents' Council,** and neighborhoods along Ashford Dunwoody Road such as **Hampton Hall, Cambridge Park, West Nancy Creek, Oak Forest, and Bubbling Creek,** as well as **residents of Ashford Dunwoody Rd**



**103 attendees + 377 online participants**



# Community Engagement Process

# Corridor Advisory Committee

A corridor advisory committee (CAC) was established to work with the project team and guide the study

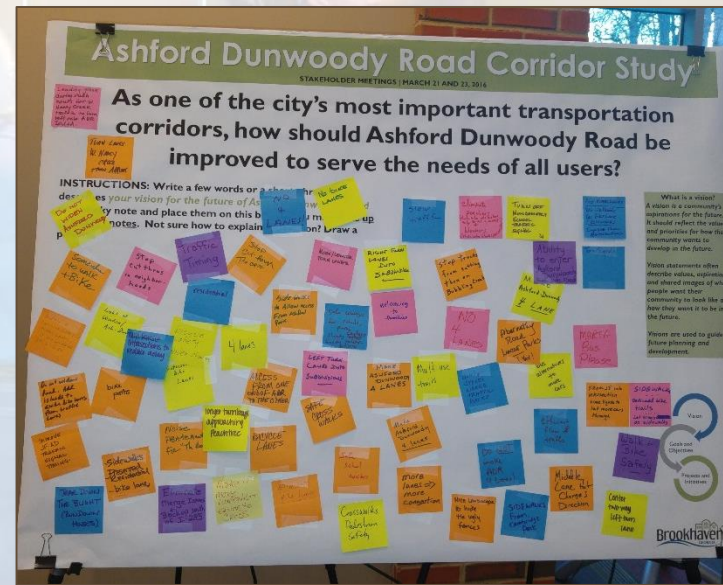
- Inform the project team about issues and opportunities
- Help guide the corridor vision and design alternatives
- Serve as a sounding board for the project team
- Help the project team engage all sectors of the community



# Public and Stakeholder Meetings

Two meetings to obtain input on important issues and opportunities to address issues

- Vision for how to improve the corridor to serve all users
- General issues and concerns along the corridor
- Mapping activity: place-based input on issues, opportunities



March 21 and March 23, 2016

108 attendees

188 sets of comment cards and issue questionnaires

250 vision elements & 230 map comments

# Public and Stakeholder Meetings (continued)

## Input on Overall Vision

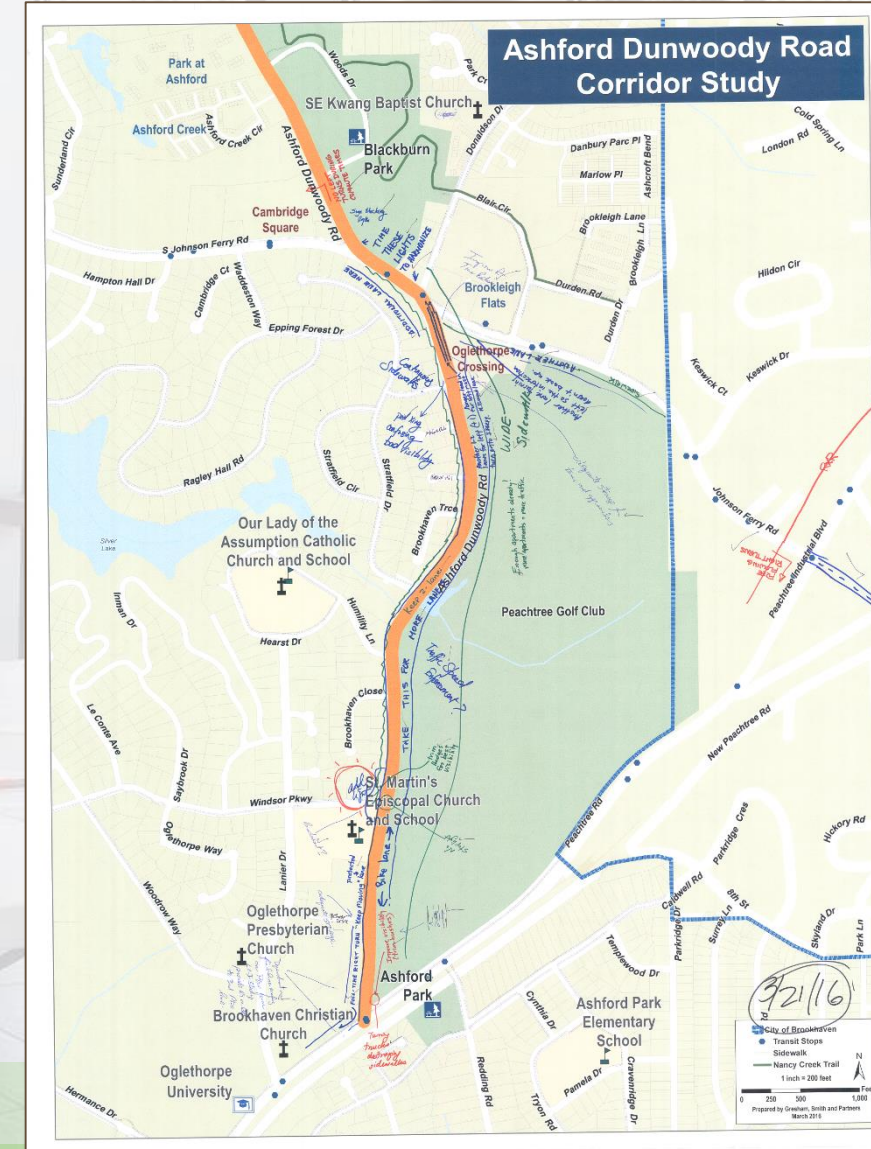
- Improved **bicycle access** through the corridor via **trails or protected paths**
- **Improved turning movements** for vehicles
- **Efficient flow of traffic and reduced congestion** throughout the corridor
- **Preserved residential neighborhoods** along and adjacent to the corridor
- **Improved traffic patterns at schools** to reduce congestion on Ashford Dunwoody Rd
- **Better coordinated or synchronized traffic signals** to improve flow of traffic
- **Reduced vehicle speed**
- **Maintained or enhanced greenery, trees and green space**
- **Improved safety for people walking: continuous sidewalks and improved crossings**



# Input on Location-Specific Needs and Opportunities

## South of Johnson Ferry Road

- **Limited visibility, short right turn lane, and difficult angle of right turn at Peachtree Rd intersection**
- **Difficulty turning from Windsor Pkwy onto Ashford Dunwoody Rd**
- **Limited sight distance in some areas**
- **Concern about speed of vehicles**
- **Bicycle access should be provided**
- **Concerns about school traffic; confusing signs for school zone**







# Input on Location-Specific Needs and Opportunities (continued)

## North of Johnson Ferry Road

- **Cut-through traffic and speeding in residential neighborhoods**
- **Concern about speeding vehicles**
- **Signal timing**
- **Suggestion for additional or longer turn lanes at Harts Mill Rd, West Nancy Creek Dr**
- **School traffic around Montgomery Elementary and Marist School**
- **Last minute lane changes southbound near Perimeter Summit Pkwy – need for clearer lane assignments**



# Mayor's Town Hall

## Mayor Ernst Town Hall on Transportation and Traffic

- Overview of study
- Draft vision
- Summary of activities and input to-date

May 27, 2016

Approx. 60 attendees

Attendees signed up to receive updates about the study

5.26.2016

Mayor John Ernst's "Traffic" Town Hall

Ashford Park Community Center • Brookhaven, GA

0:02 / 1:31:23

5\_26\_2016 Mayor John Ernst's Traffic Town Hall



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# Community Workshop

**Present and gather input on draft potential recommendations for roadway configurations and bicycle and pedestrian facilities along the corridor**

- Potential improvements at 7 key intersections
- Potential typical cross-sections for 6 segments of the corridor
- Overview of input gathered during previous public and stakeholder meetings (in March)

**September 12, 2016**

**103 attendees**

**377 responses to  
online questionnaire**

# Community Workshop (continued)

Multiple possible improvements were presented for 7 intersections

Out of 22 total draft potential improvements, a majority were strongly or somewhat supported:

- 11 supported by 80-89% of respondents
- 7 supported by 70-79% of respondents
- Only one supported by fewer than 50% of respondents



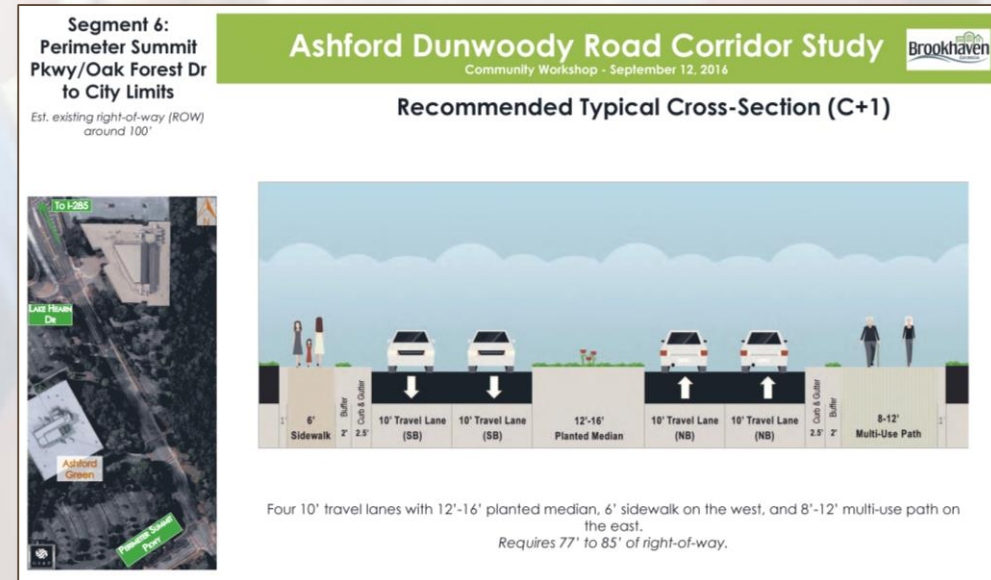
# Community Workshop (continued)

## Out of 6 total draft potential typical cross-sections:

- **All** were somewhat or strongly supported by at least 55% of respondents
- Two supported by more than 66%

## Comments and concerns

- Traffic calming is needed
- Safety should be paramount
- Design the road such that people drive more slowly
- Concerns about impacts to businesses, adjacent property



Example of draft potential typical cross-section for the segment north of Perimeter Summit Pkwy/Oak Forest Dr as presented during community workshop



# Public Open House

## Presentation of revised draft recommendations: potential intersection improvements and typical cross-sections

- Process overview and timeline
- Potential improvements at seven key intersections
- Four potential typical cross-sections

**November 29, 2016**

**Approx.  
75 attendees**

**General comments at  
Open House and via  
email for 2 weeks  
afterward**



# Public Open House (continued)

- Many comments addressed design details that have not yet been determined

## Common themes among comments and concerns:

- Maintaining **access to businesses** (ingress/egress)
- **Potential impacts to residential property**
- **Speed of vehicles** traveling on Ashford Dunwoody Rd
- **Cut-through traffic** in residential neighborhoods
- **Need to balance local vs. regional commuter traffic**
- **Concern that recommendations may not alleviate congestion or may attract additional traffic**
- **Approach for implementation should be incremental and done in coordination with residents, property owners, and other stakeholders**

# Public Open House (continued)

- **Common themes among supportive comments**
  - **Addresses safety concerns**
  - **Will help make the area more walkable**
  - **Will help improve quality of life**
  - **Will enhance traffic flow**
  - **Balancing traffic and neighborhoods**
  - **Appreciate focus on operational improvements, rather than increasing capacity**

# Draft Vision and Recommendations



# Draft Vision and Recommendations

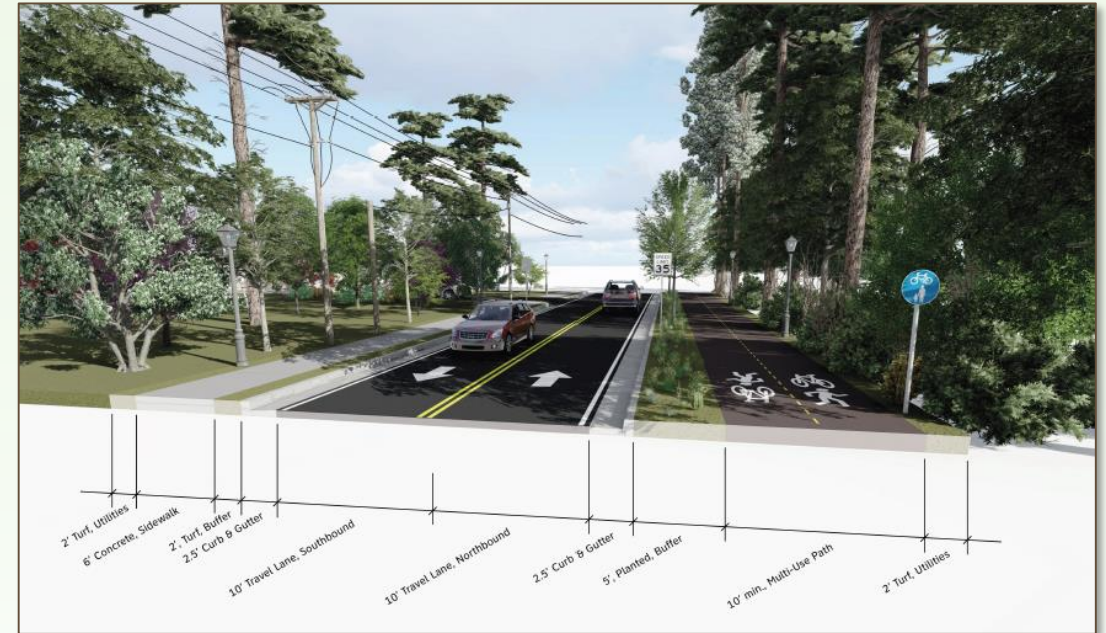
- **High-level visioning study that seeks to identify a “big picture” vision for the corridor**
- **Series of general recommendations and strategies to address identified issues**
- **Balance safety, operations, potential impact, volume of traffic**
- **Vision for configurations of facilities to accommodate all modes of travel**
  - Potential typical cross-sections
  - Potential intersection improvements

## Vision Statement

*Ashford Dunwoody Road should be a safe, efficient, inviting, and convenient multi-modal corridor that provides all users with access to a variety of destinations in a harmonious, cost-effective manner that enables neighborhoods and businesses to thrive. People are able to move safely, efficiently along, through, and within the corridor to connect with neighborhoods, workplaces, institutions, and activity centers on foot, bike, car, bus or other modes in a way that preserves and enhances surrounding neighborhoods, green space, and the community in general.*

# Overall Vision

- **Context sensitive design**
- **35-mph roadway**
- **Narrower lanes**
- **Continuous and interconnected multi-modal network**
  - Sidewalk on the west side
  - Multi-use path along east side
- **Safer pedestrian crossings at key locations**
- **Traffic calming in residential neighborhoods**
- **Enhanced streetscaping**
  - Trees, pedestrian-scale lighting, wayfinding signage, and other amenities at key nodes



*Vision of Typical Cross-Section for Peachtree Rd to south of Johnson Ferry Rd*

# Overall Vision (continued)

- One lane in each direction with turn lanes at key intersections, south of Johnson Ferry Rd
- Long-term realignment of Johnson Ferry Rd intersections *(may be contingent upon redevelopment of shopping centers)*
- One lane in each direction with center turn lane, north of Johnson Ferry Rd
- Two lanes in each direction, north of Perimeter Summit Pkwy

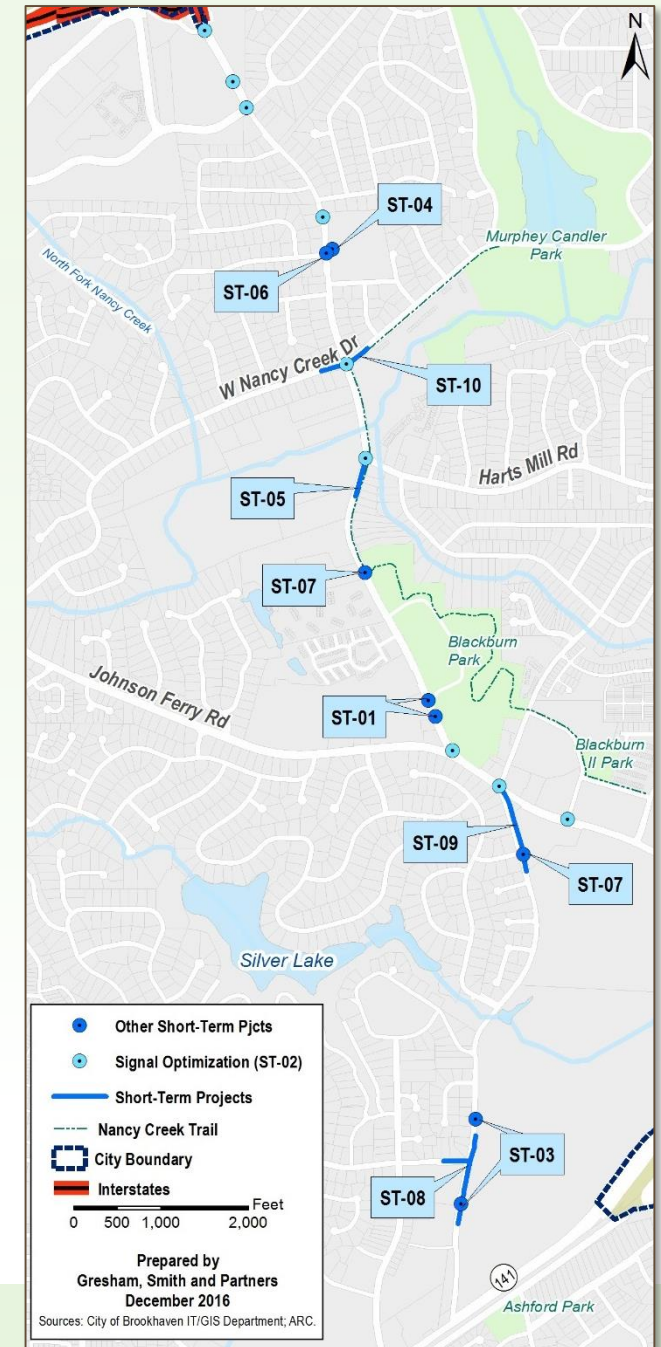


Vision of Typical Cross-Section for segment north of Perimeter Summit Pkwy



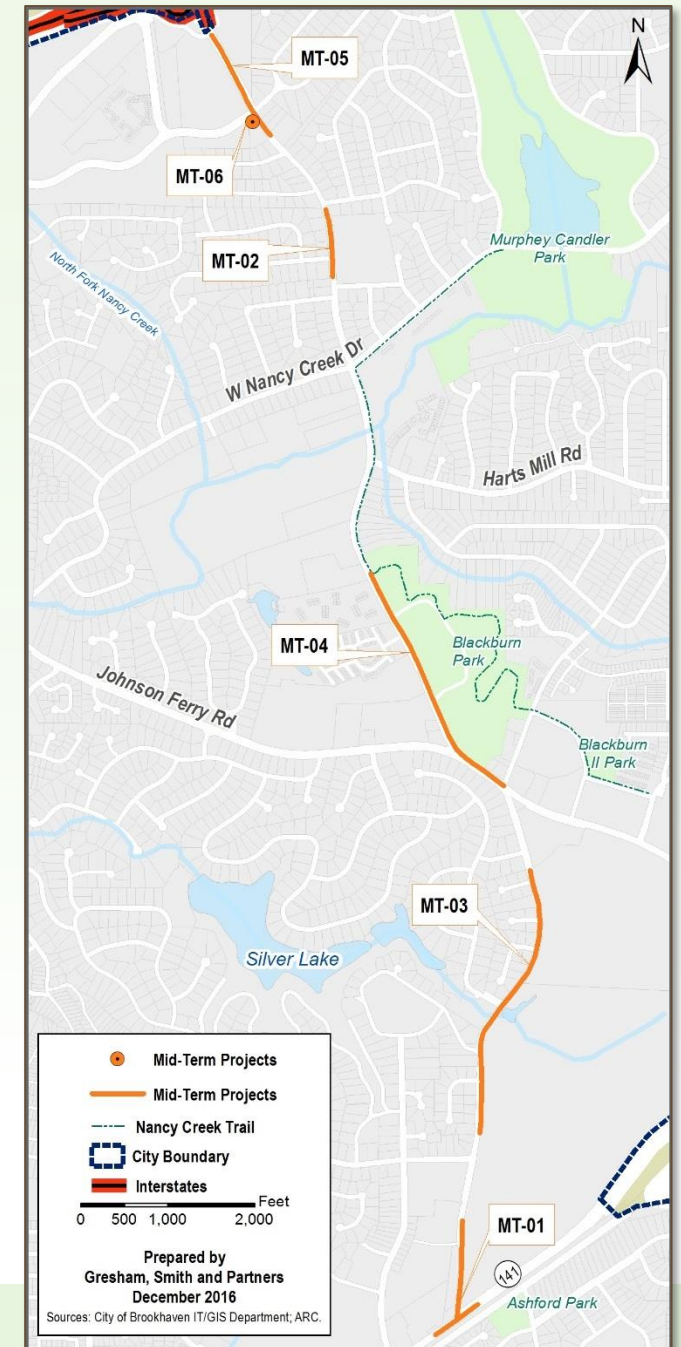
# Potential Projects: Short-Term

- 10 short-term projects
- Low cost, low level of complexity
- Includes:
  - Signal optimization
  - Pedestrian crossing improvements
    - Kadleston Way, near YMCA, Montgomery Elementary
  - Advance warning and other signage
  - Intersection improvements
    - Harts Mill Rd
    - Windsor Pkwy
    - Ashford Dunwoody Rd south of Johnson Ferry Rd/Donaldson Dr
    - West Nancy Creek Dr



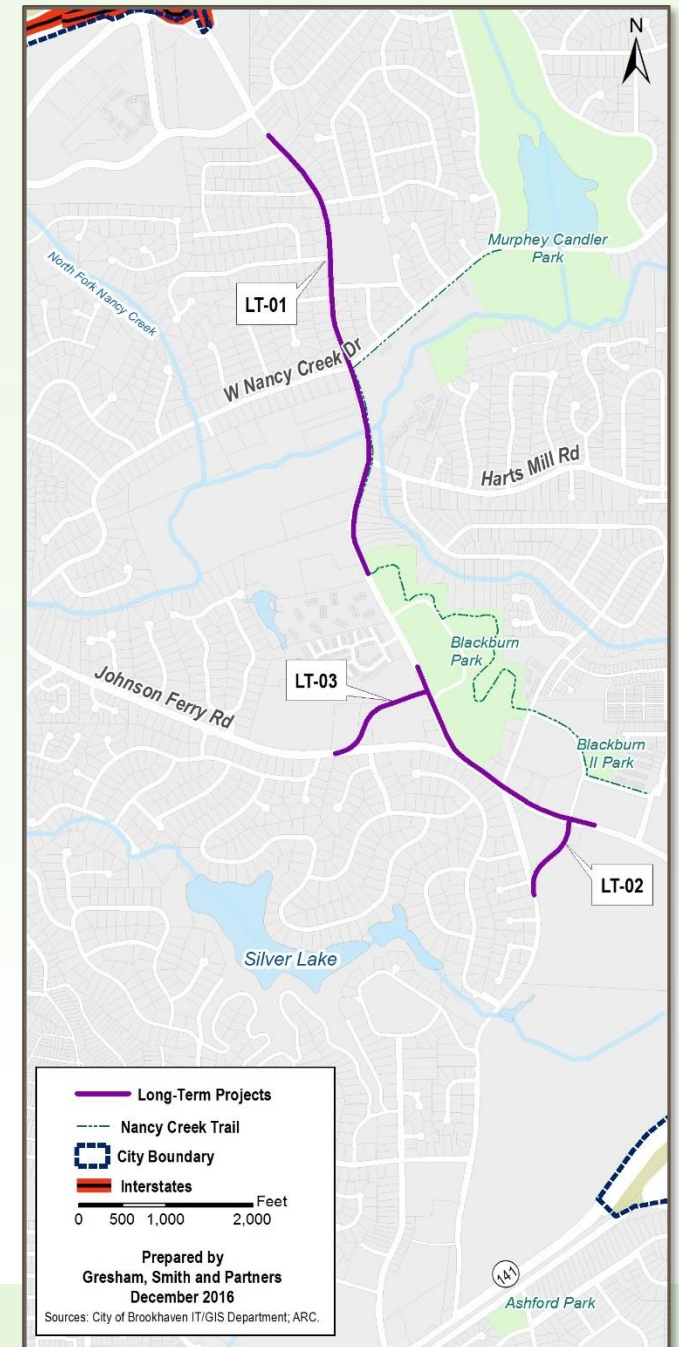
# Potential Projects: Mid-Term

- 6 mid-term projects
- Moderate cost, moderate level of complexity
- Includes:
  - More complicated intersection improvements
    - Peachtree Rd
    - Montgomery Elementary School
    - Perimeter Summit Pkwy
  - Multi-modal improvements and typical section implementation
    - Along Blackburn Park
    - Between Windsor Pkwy and Johnson Ferry
  - Gateway monument near Perimeter Summit Pkwy



# Potential Projects: Long-Term

- 3 long-term projects
- High cost, high level of complexity
- Will involve substantial coordination with property owners and may be contingent upon redevelopment of shopping centers
- Includes:
  - Realignments at Johnson Ferry Rd intersections
  - Multi-modal improvements and typical section implementation in the northern portion of corridor

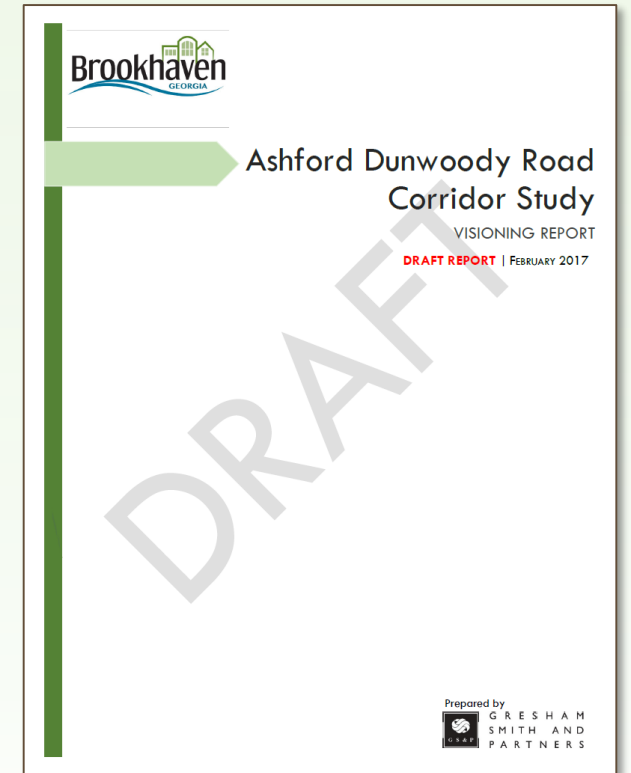




# Wrapping Up and Next Steps

# Next Steps

- Design and implementation process dependent upon City priorities, available resources
- Report now available for review
  - Team will work with City staff to address Mayor and Council comments and questions
- Consider **overall vision and general recommendations to implement intersection improvements, bicycle/pedestrian connections, and streetscape improvements**
  - City staff will be back to ask for adoption of visioning report once finalized



# Questions?

Learn more on the City's  
website

[www.BrookhavenGA.gov](http://www.BrookhavenGA.gov)

Email the Project Team

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BrookhavenGA.gov](mailto:ADCorridorStudy@BrookhavenGA.gov)

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